

Goals For Americans

No. 24—*Beyond the Next Decade*

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IN the conduct of our national affairs over the next decade, we must have in the back of our minds some picture of the problems that lie over the brow of the hill—problems likely to arise for the first time or become vastly more serious after the 1960's. What is clear beyond any doubt is that the path beyond 1970 will still be uphill.

Economic status is not the final determinant of the status of the world. But with so far to go on this front, the problems of political stability and of the growth of freedom are bound to remain acute.

The population problem in particular will become more rather than less difficult beyond the next decade.

The trends point up two major dangers that confront us both in the next decade and after.

One is the effect of Sino-Soviet Bloc economic activity. The future will see the USSR increasingly recognized for what it is—a major advanced nation in position to furnish not merely spectacular “one-shot” assistance but continuing help.

Soviet action can still take advantage of political ferment, particularly in the first years of emerging nations.

The second danger is more general. It lies in the excessive expectations of the newer nations and their envy of the standards of advanced nations.

These standards will inevitably be increasingly visible to them and increasingly far ahead of their own conditions.

Unmixed with realism and unmitigated by some signs

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of help and progress, this envy and these excessive expectations can only strengthen greatly the hand of those forces, internal and external, that would throw over the help of the free advanced nations and turn to the communist bloc.

These dangers are formidable. In one form or another they will certainly make our task painful and filled with setbacks.

Yet as the story unfolds there will also be great opportunities. One is that of strengthening the bonds between the U. S. and the other free and advanced nations.

The frictions of the last 150 years over the U. S. position toward "colonialism" may shortly begin to drop astern. This will leave the way open for the broad underlying community of interest in dealing with the less advanced nations. Much has happened in the last two years to make this bond an effective working basis. This could be only the beginning.

Properly applied, the assets of the free advanced nations outweigh those of the hostile communist powers. By behaving constructively ourselves it is not wholly out of the cards that we could bring such pressure on the Soviet Union that it would join the effort on a truly constructive basis. If so, we and the world should only welcome this.

Lastly, there is real hope that the less advanced nations themselves will see the interdependence between their long term interests and those of the more advanced nations.

Then there would be the prospect of the task becoming what it should be - a common enterprise in which helped and helper have the same goal.

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